

# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:  
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## PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 06975-476WO1		Date of mailing (day/month/year) <b>16 OCT 2006</b> <b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> See paragraph 2 below
International application No. PCT/US05/08476	International filing date (day/month/year) 15 March 2005 (15.03.2005)	Priority date (day/month/year) 15 March 2004 (15.03.2004)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC IPC: G06Q 99/00( 2006.01) USPC: 705/1		
Applicant AMERICA ONLINE, INC.		

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I      Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II      Priority
- ☐ Box No. III      Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV      Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V      Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI      Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII      Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII      Certain observations on the international application

### 2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/ US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (571) 273-3201	Date of completion of this opinion      Authorized officer 18 September 2006 (18.09.2006)      John Weiss <i>S. Braun</i> Telephone No. 571-272-3600
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Form PCT/ISA/237 (cover sheet) (April 2005)

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/US05/08476

Box No. 1 Basis of this opinion

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of:

- ☒ the international application in the language in which it was filed
- ☐ a translation of the international application into \_\_\_\_\_, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1(b)).

2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:

a. type of material

- ☐ a sequence listing
- ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing

b. format of material

- ☐ on paper
- ☐ in electronic form

c. time of filing/furnishing

- ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in electronic form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.

3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table(s) relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.

4. Additional comments:

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Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43 bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

I. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>NONE</u>	YES
	Claims <u>1-23</u>	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims <u>NONE</u>	YES
	Claims <u>1-23</u>	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-23</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO

2. Citations and explanations:

Claims 1-23 lack novelty under PCT Article 33(2) as being anticipated by US Patent 6,549,937 Auerbach et al. System and Method for Multi-Protocol Communication in a Computer Network

As to claims 1, 17 and 23 Auerbach teaches requesting network user information from one service provider to another(C. 21.61-67).

As to claims 2 and 18 Auerbach teaches the first provider identifying the user being requested(C. 51. 49-57).

As to claims 3 and 19 Auerbach teaches the users network ID being associated and identified with the first service provider(C. 61. 5-14).

As to claims 4-6 and 12-13 Auerbach teaches modifying the users webpage to identify changes that have been made to contact list or affinity contact list.(C. 71. 29-57)

As to claim 7 Auerbach teaches the user accessing the new contact lists added from the first service provider(C. 121. 40-47).

As to claim 8-9 Auerbach teaches modifying the users web page to identify the relationship between the contacts(C. 61. 35-40)

As to claim 10 Auerbach teaches logging into first service provider triggering logging into second service provider(C. 121. 65-67; C. 131. 1-4).

As to claim 11 web servers(Fig. 2)

As to claim 14 maintaining and linking users with different social networks(Fig. 5B)

As to claims 15-16 Auerbach teaches user requesting services from second service provider(C. 61. 14-28).

As to claim 20 Auerbach teaches determining the users relation to a social network(Fig. 5A Ref 208).

As to claim 21 Auerbach teaches a second contact list with second user contact list(Fig. 5B Ref. 222).